2018 **DIGITAL** DOWNLOAD

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

MESSAGE FROM THE **DIRECTOR**

As we approach the second decade of USAID's Center for Digital Development (CDD), it is a good time to take stock of how much progress has been made by the global digital development community, particularly in the last year. According to the International Telecommunication Union, over half the world's population (51.2 percent) was using the internet in 2018.[1] We also saw encouraging progress toward greater digital financial inclusion. As shown in the World Bank's 2017 Global Findex report, 52 percent of adults have used digital payments, an increase of 24 percent from 2014.[2]

The international development community itself has made significant progress towards supporting a more inclusive digital economy and effective use of digital technologies. As a way to create a common set of best practices, USAID helped draft the Principles for Digital Development in 2013, a set of nine guidelines that promote smart and sustainable integration of digital tools into development programming, and led the initial endorsement campaign. That campaign, now led by the Digital Impact Alliance (DIAL), has resulted in over 150 organizations publicly announcing their endorsement, including the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Germany's international development agency. These two donors—along with 60 other organizations—endorsed the Principles in 2018, and the Principles continue to grow in importance for how the development community allocates and maximizes its resources.

1. International Telecommunication Union (ITU), *ITU releases 2018 global and regional ICT estimates*, (Geneva, December 2018).
2. Asli Demirguc-Kunt, Leora Klapper, Dorothe Singer, Saniya Ansar & Jake Hess, *The Global Findex Database 2017*, (Washington DC, 2018)

These milestones only scratch the surface of another momentous year in digital development, one that demonstrates that the digital revolution shows no sign of slowing. While we should continue celebrating these landmarks, we must also highlight the digital revolution's most far-reaching outcomes—those that address previously intractable development challenges and create a truly inclusive global society. Take for instance these two examples.

Deep in the rainforest, Rex, a forest ranger in the Philippines, is on the lookout for illegal loggers. These illegal loggers were once hard to catch and contributed to rapid deforestation, ecological damage, and devastating landslides. Rex and his fellow forest rangers and volunteers now use their mobile phones to digitally document logging sites and indicators of the forest's health. This geotagged information allows the government to take immediate, targeted action to protect their natural resources and helps Rex do his job more effectively.

Half a world away, Consolata meets with a local bank manager in Uganda to access financing options on behalf of local smallholder farmers. Thanks to the personalized digital farmer profiles she has on her smartphone app, she can provide exact details on farm size, crop yields, and the current needs of farmers in her community. This app and the information it provides on both farmers and the larger ecosystem helps Consolata, financial institutions, and farmers have increased access to markets and agricultural information, supporting their journey to self-reliance, economic growth, and food security.

This is where the true impact of the digital revolution lies for the majority of the world's population—individuals and communities gaining the digital skills needed to pursue economic, health, education, and social opportunities. And in cases where not just one digital tool is being used, but a combination of many that takes advantage of the natural distributive and integrative powers these technologies afford is where the development community's work is of vital importance.

Certainly, the growing digital economy has given rise to great wealth and power. Yet the benefits and influence that comes along with them are not equally distributed, creating vast disparities in access and opportunities and even potential risks. Despite a majority of the world's population now being online, Freedom House has reported that the global state of internet freedom declined for the eighth straight year. The sheer speed and reach of mobile services and broadband access have also allowed for nefarious uses of digital technologies: to spread misinformation; to extend authoritarian control and surveillance over supposed democracies; to usurp big data and personally identifiable information in order to distort markets and fuel predatory behavior; and to drive a wedge between the connected and unconnected. We are more mindful of these risks now than ever before, with our exposure shaped by incidents in the media that have real impact on our daily lives. In the developing world where we work, these gaps and risks have even greater repercussions and can lead to a growing digital divide, especially among women and other traditionally excluded and vulnerable communities.

Looking to the coming year and beyond, these continued gaps and emerging risks should be at the forefront of all digital development considerations. We believe that the outcome of the digital revolution is neither predetermined nor a foregone conclusion. USAID and its public and private sector partners all have a critical role in shaping digital ecosystems so that they are inclusive, open, and trusted.

Looking at 2018, CDD has worked to address these challenges and to leverage digital technologies in a manner that optimizes our development investments. We announced the winners of the WomenConnect Challenge and the Fall Armyworm Tech Prize, challenges launched to empower women and girls and find innovative digital solutions to support food security, respectively. We released two influential reports—the *Primer on Blockchain* and *Reflecting the Past, Shaping the Future: Making AI Work for International Development*—exploring the promises and challenges of emerging technologies and their uses in development. We also recognized the conclusion of our Digital Development for Feed the Future initiative in partnership with USAID's Bureau for Food Security and the final year of the RegTech for Regulators Accelerator, a partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Omidyar, and Bankable Frontiers Associates. Through an inter-Agency partnership, we also took a lead role in creating the Digital Connectivity and Cybersecurity Partnership, a strategy focused on creating an open, secure, and inclusive internet. And finally, to close out the year, we announced the winners of our 2018 USAID Digi Awards which recognize leading digital development projects across the Agency.

As you will see in this report, our work is already making tremendous strides towards recognizing the promise of the digital revolution, addressing new challenges, and bridging long-standing gaps. With the continued efforts of USAID and the broader development community, I am confident that people like Consolata and Rex will be further empowered to enter into an inclusive, secure digital world and advance their countries' journey to self-reliance.

CHRISTOPHER BURNS
Director, Center for Digital Development,
U.S. Global Development Lab
U.S. Agency for International Development

CENTER FOR DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

2010

- USAID's Mobile Money team is formally created, the first by a bilateral donor agency.
- GSMA mWomen, cofunded and co-designed by USAID, is launched.

2011

- USAID's Mobile Money team changes its name to the Mobile Solutions team and adds mAccess and mData to its portfolio, expanding the focus to encompass more of the mobile ecosystem.
- The USAID GeoCenter is launched, institutionalizing a geographic approach to development.

2012

- The Better than Cash Alliance, cofunded and co-designed by USAID, is launched.
- USAID's Office of Science and Technology is launched.
- USAID establishes the position of Chief Geographer, demonstrating the Agency's commitment to gathering geographic data and targeting its programs based on data analysis.

2013

- Alliance for Affordable Internet cofunded and co-designed by USAID, is launched.
- The Principles for Digital Development are drafted with participation from USAID.
- USAID's Mobile Solutions Team wins GSMA's Best Government Policy for Mobile Development Award.

2014

- U.S. Global Development Lab is established, and the Mobile Solutions team changes its name to Digital Development to reflect its strategic change to focus on supporting the foundations of an open and inclusive digital economy.
- The Principles for Digital Development are formally endorsed by USAID.
- Turning Data Into Action Award is launched, proving existing enthusiasm within USAID to use data and technology.
- USAID issues a Procurement Executive Bulletin requiring e-payments as default payment mechanism to Implementing Partners.

Photo credits

Kay McGowan, USAID
Nandini Hariharesware/USAID
Brooke Patterson/USAID
Afandi Djauhari/NetHope
Kay McGowan/USAID
Bobby Neptune/USAID
USAID India
Neil Brandvold/USAID

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

2015

- The *West Africa Digital Development Forum* is hosted in conjunction with the Lab's first Digital Development training.
- The Digital Development for Feed the Future (D2FTF) initiative is launched in collaboration with the Bureau for Food Security.
- GSMA's USAID-supported ConnectedWomen program (previously mWomen) publishes *Bridging the Gender Gap* report, exploring the digital gender divide and how women can be empowered through digital tools.
- President Obama announces USAID-India Financial Inclusion initiative, an initiative the Lab and Center plays a large role in supporting.
- Congress appropriates the emergency appropriation for Ebola Response, Recovery and Resilience including $40M for Innovation, Technology & Partnerships. As part of this, the Lab is included in the Ebola Task Force and supported the Broad Agency Announcement for Health Information Systems Interoperability for Ebola Recovery.
- USAID's Digital Development team, GeoCenter, and the Lab's Data team combine to form the Center for Digital Development (CDD).
- The YouthMappers program is officially launch on Capitol Hill.
- The Digital Impact Alliance (DIAL), cofunded and co-designed by USAID, is formally launched.
- USAID/India and CDD host a Digital Development Forum and training in New Delhi.
- The first USAID-Treasury Financial Inclusion Forum is held in Washington, DC.

2016

- RegTech for Regulators Accelerator, cofunded and co-designed by USAID, is launched.
- Second USAID-Treasury Financial Inclusion Forum is held in Washington, DC.
- *Central America Digital Development Forum* and Digital Development training is held in San Salvador, El Salvador.
- USAID creates the Strategy and Research team within the CDD to explore emerging technologies and the risks and benefits they pose when used in development.
- Digital Development Advisors Program is launched to create a network of digital development specialists across the Agency.
- The *From Principle to Practice* report is launched at the Principles for Digital Development Forum in Washington, DC.
- The *Fighting Ebola with Information* report is released.
- Agency releases ADS 201 to ensure programs are reporting and using geodata in the decision-making process and creating more effective, efficient development solutions based on geographic data.

2017

- The first Digital Development Awards (Digis) is launched and five winners are announced.
- *Identity in a Digital Age*, USAID's first report exploring digital ID systems, is published.
- The Nepal Data Driven Farming Prize is launched and 4 winners are announced.
- The Center expands its Digital Development trainings to include an advanced Digital Development 201 training.
- The *Zambia Digital Development Forum* is held in Lusaka.
- CDD launches DigitalDevelopment.org, providing its resources to partners and the general public.
- A partnership between Google and USAID is announced in Liberia to build reliable, affordable broadband infrastructure for Liberia's capital city of Monrovia.
- The West African Health Informatics Team (WAHIT), cofunded and co-designed by USAID, is formally launched to support digital health information systems across the region.

2018

- YouthMappers launches its 100th chapter in 100 weeks.
- USAID hosts the *Digital Development: The Next 10 Years Forum* to discuss the future of digital development and lessons learned from the field's first decade.
- USAID establishes a policy requiring geographic data collection for field activities.
- *Reflecting the Past, Shaping the Future: Making AI Work for International Development*, a report on artificial intelligence and machine learning in development, is released.
- The second Digi Awards are launched and five winners are announced.
- USAID's Fall Armyworm Tech Prize is launched and six winners are announced.
- The WomenConnect Challenge is launched and nine winners are announced.
- The *Primer on Blockchain* is published.

How does digital support the Journey to **Self-Reliance?**

Digital technology has revolutionized the ways in which we interact with the world around us. Impacting every sector, economy, and government, the use and importance of digital tools and data has grown exponentially in the last decade.

USAID recognizes the integral role digital tools and data play in the journey to self-reliance and supports countries as they build their commitments and capacity to fully harness the power of digital technology.

COMMITMENT

Open and Accountable Governance

Public e-procurement platforms help reduce corruption, save money, and increase efficiency. In Ukraine, the pilot of the e-procurement platform, ProZorro, helped the government save 12% of cost. Since the platform's full implementation in 2016, ProZorro is estimated for saving about 10% of overall public savings, approximately $2.5 billion, due to increased competition and transparency.

Source: ProZorro, Wall Street Journal

Inclusive Development

74% women say having a mobile phone saves them time

68% women report feeling safer with a mobile phone

60% say it saves them money

58% feel more independent

Source: GSMA

Economic Policy

By increasing productivity and reducing trade costs, digital trade is credited with an estimated increase in US gross domestic product (GDP) of between 3.4 percent to 4.8 percent and with the creation of up to 2.4 million jobs in 2013.

3.4-4.8% increase in GDP

2.4M jobs created

Source: United States International Trade Commission[1]

1 The estimated increase in GDP is based on 2011 data from the Global Trade Analysis Project.

CAPACITY

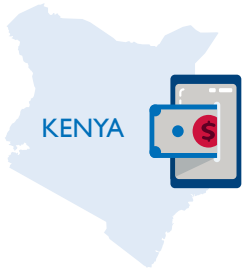
Government Capacity

The economic opportunities presented by digital technologies and data are limitless. For instance, in Mexico, the Better Than Cash Alliance reports that the Mexican government saves US $1.27 billion each year thanks to digital payments.

The Mexican government saves **$1.27B** each year thanks to digital payments.

Citizen Capacity

Thanks to digital tools like mobile money, communities are more stable and self reliant. In Kenya for instance, the mobile money system M-PESA has lifted 194,000 households, or 2 percent of Kenyan households out of poverty according to Science.



M-PESA Mobile money system lifted **194K** households from poverty

Source: Science

Capacity of the Economy

The economic impact of the expanding use of information and communication technologies (ICT) cannot be overstated. According to McKinsey, by increasing mobile phone adoption and fully enabling digital financial services the GDP of emerging economies could increase by over $3.5 trillion, or 6 percent, by 2025.

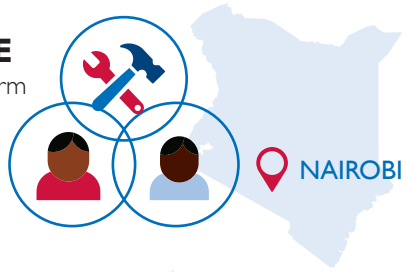
Fully enabling digital financial services alone could increase the GDP of emerging economies **OVER $3.5T BY 2025**

Source: McKinsey

Civil Society Capacity

Digital technologies enable civil society, citizens, and media to hold government and service delivery providers accountable. In Kenya, MajiVoice is a software platform that links citizens, water service providers, and the sector regulator to report and respond effectively to service outages. Between July 2013 and December 2014, 94% of complaints or service requests in Nairobi, were addressed.

MAJIVOICE is a software platform that links citizens, water service providers, and the sector regulator



94% of complaints or service requests in Nairobi, were addressed.

Source: World Bank Group

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

WHO
WE ARE

Photo: Syllable Photography

USAID's Center for Digital Development (CDD) works to improve the lives of millions of poor and vulnerable people throughout the world and promotes a path to self reliance for countries by supporting the development of secure, inclusive, and resilient digital ecosystems and the adoption of digital tools and data-driven approaches to improve development outcomes.

To achieve this goal, CDD works with USAID Missions and Bureaus, the private sector, and the broader development community

- to expand digital infrastructure in countries in which USAID works;
- to support the creation and adoption of policies that promote inclusive use and access of digital tools and services;
- to integrate digital development best practices and data-informed approaches into USAID programs; and
- to explore the benefits and risk posed by emerging technologies.

OUR **FOCUS**

USAID's Digital Development programming focuses broadly on five technical areas:

DIGITAL INCLUSION facilitates the expansion of internet access in USAID presence countries to accelerate the Agency's development objectives, while ensuring the most marginalized have the skills and resources to be active participants in the digital economy.

DIGITAL FINANCE helps people gain access to and have the ability to effectively use a full suite of financial services that are affordable, accessible, and secure while also working with governments to ensure financial systems are transparent, inclusive, and secure.

DEVELOPMENT INFORMATICS supports the Agency and other development actors to better use digital information systems and data to increase efficiency, address privacy and security concerns, and improve development outcomes.

The **GEOCENTER** uses geospatial technology, advanced data analytics, and visualization techniques to improve the strategic planning, design, and monitoring of USAID's programs.

STRATEGY & RESEARCH carries out actionable research on the social, political, and practical aspects of the use of emerging technologies and frontier digital approaches in developing country contexts, while providing guidance and technical assistance to development colleagues as they work to innovate responsibly.

OUR **APPROACH**

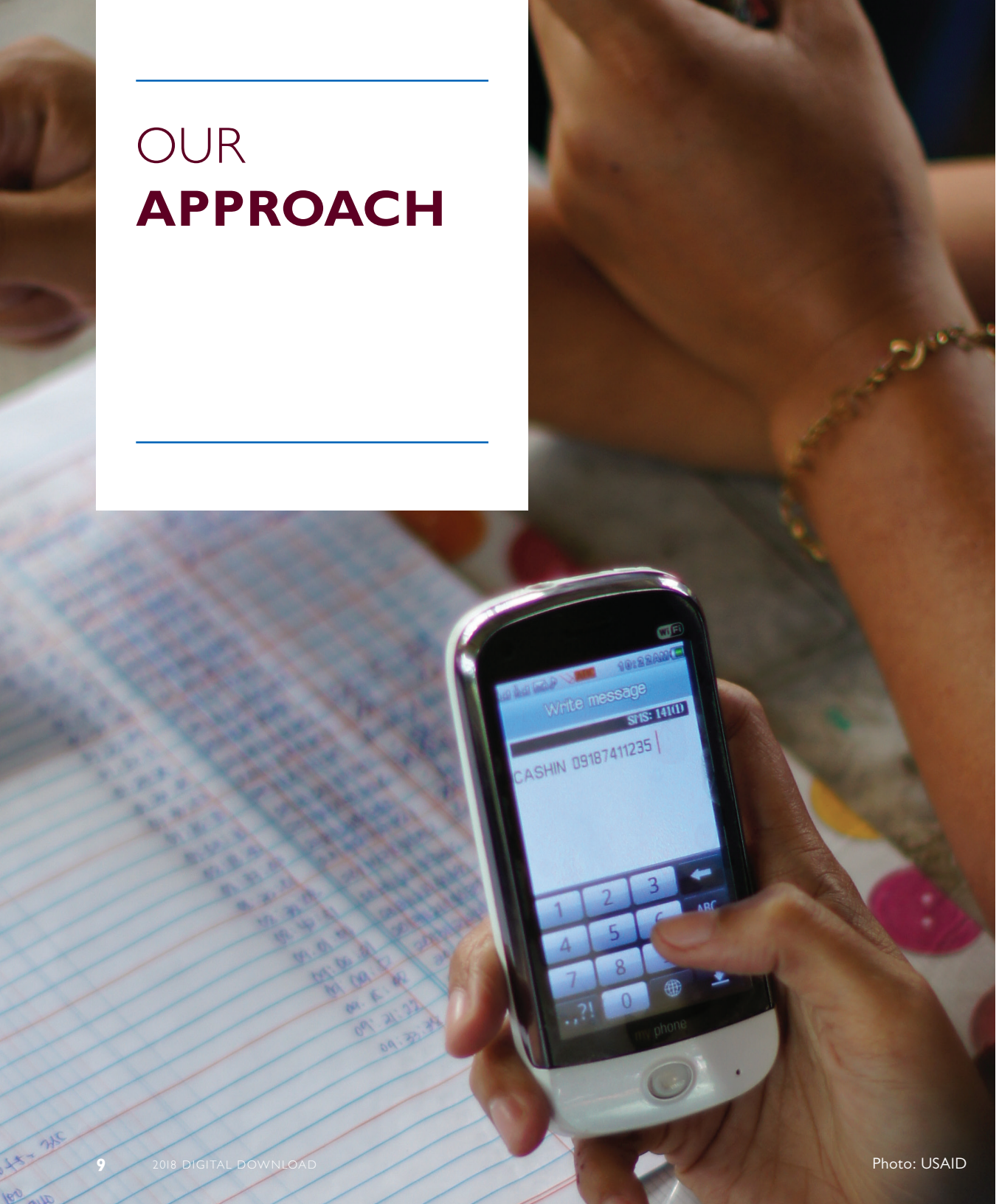


Photo: USAID

Working across sectors and with a diverse range of partners, we take a multi-pronged approach that leverages the resources of USAID, its implementing partners, and other actors, centering on three main areas:

CATALYZING INCLUSIVE DIGITAL ECONOMIES

Since 2011, CDD has leveraged over $192[1] million from public and private partners on USAID investments. $45 million was used to catalyze the enabling environment for inclusive digital infrastructure and services—such as internet connectivity and digital payments—through multi-stakeholder alliances.

1. 'Lab leverage' is a program performance indicator for the U.S. Global Development Lab that captures commitments of funding and in-kind resources from a range of external non-USAID partners investing in shared development goals when working jointly with the Lab on a partnership, program or activity. The Lab's leverage performance indicator includes: all cost-share contributions (from both public and private sector partners); all other contributions (from the private sector, the public sector, and other U.S. government agencies); and gifts (from foreign governments, private organizations, and individuals).

BUILDING AGENCY CAPACITY

Recognizing the increasing need for digital development specialists across the Agency, CDD has created numerous trainings, technical documents, toolkits, and guidance documents to enhance local and regional digital expertise. Since its creation, CDD has trained over 2,300 USAID staff and partners in how to apply digital technologies and advanced data and geographic analysis to development programming. We also support a network of Digital Development Advisors and GeoSpecialists, all of whom are in-country, local experts in USAID Missions across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East. CDD's overarching Digital Development community of practice reaches an internal and external audience of over 3,600 subscribers every month.

ACCELERATING USAID PROGRAMMING

With the start of USAID's mobile money team in 2010 and then the launch of the U.S. Global Development Lab in 2014, the Agency has worked to integrate digital technology, advanced data and geographic analysis, and inclusive, market-led innovations into development programs. Since 2010, CDD has conducted over 705 engagements with 80 USAID Bureaus, Independent Offices, and Missions, ranging from direct technical assistance to strategic consultations.

Since its creation, the Center for Digital Development has trained over

2,300

USAID STAFF AND PARTNERS in how to apply digital technologies and advanced data and geographic analysis to development programming.

Since 2010 CDD has over

705

ENGAGEMENTS

with **80** USAID Bureaus, Independent Offices, and Missions.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

After three years, we celebrated the accomplishments of the Digital Development for Feed the Future team as they closed out their final year. Working with smallholder farmers and USAID programs in Feed the Future countries to integrate digital tools into their work, the team made significant strides in helping to increase food security and played a key technical role in the creation of the U.S. Government's Global Food Security Strategy.

Recognizing the growing need for the coordinated integration and use of digital technologies and data-driven approaches in development and humanitarian response, we are leading the effort to create a USAID Digital Strategy. This strategy will guide the Agency and its partners in more effectively using digital tools and advanced data analysis to improve service delivery, increase transparency and cost efficiency, and, ultimately, support countries on their journey to self-reliance.

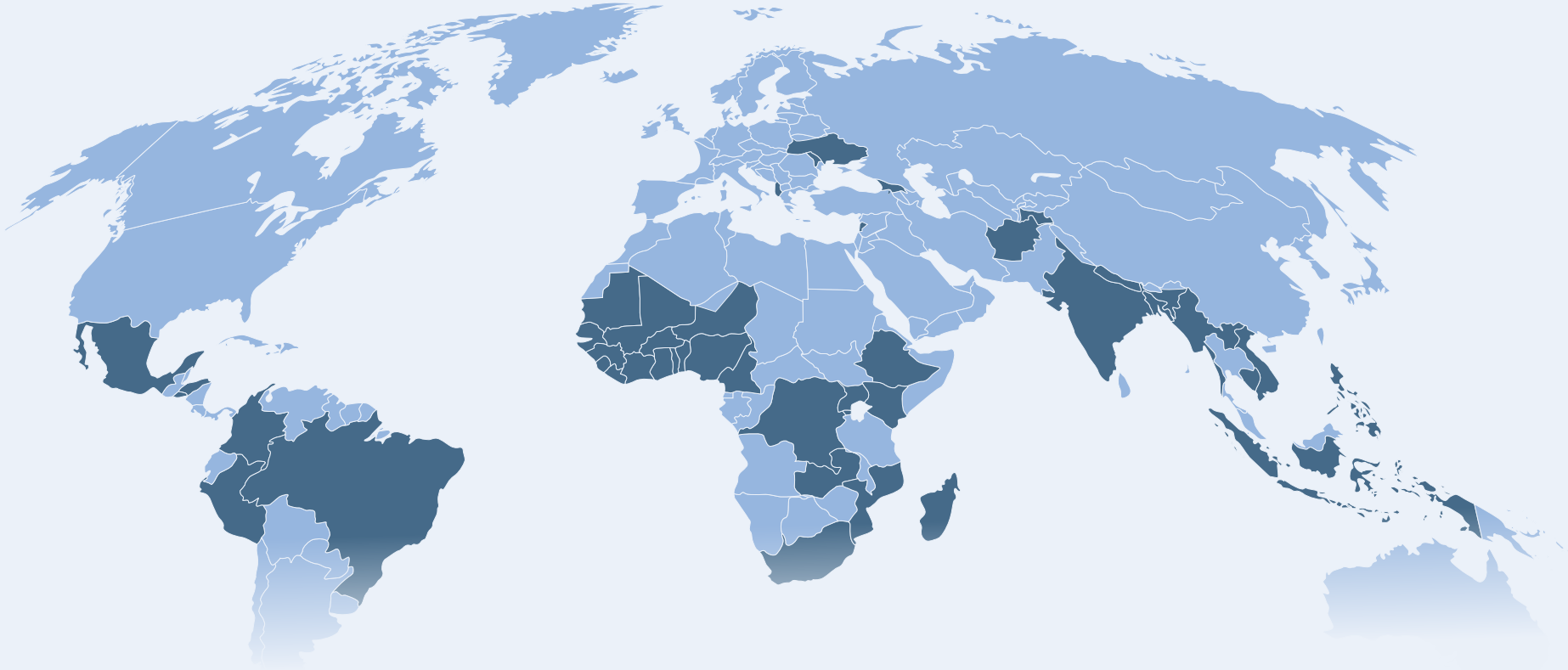
Bringing together industry leaders from government, the private sector, and development, we hosted the Digital Development Forum: The Next 10 Years. This one-day forum provided the opportunity for nearly 300 development practitioners, entrepreneurs, innovators, and thought leaders to reflect upon the first decade of digital development, discuss ongoing challenges and programmatic needs, and plan for the next decade.

Following a highly successful launch in 2017, we announced the second annual Digital Development Awards, also known as the Digis, in May 2018. Seeking applications from USAID-funded projects using digital tools and data-driven approaches to solve development challenges, we received over 140 applications, out of which, five winners were chosen for their programs focusing on digital inclusion, digital finance, advanced data and geographic analysis, and digital agriculture.

We launched the Digi-Know Webinar Series to foster discussion between CDD experts and the broader development community on trending topics and emerging technologies such as blockchain, artificial intelligence and machine learning.

Exploring one of the most exciting emerging technologies, we published "Reflecting the Past, Shaping the Future: Making AI Work for International Development" to share how development practitioners can assess and plan for the potential uses, benefits, and risks of artificial intelligence and machine learning in their programs.

Working across the Agency, CDD supported the launch of the WomenConnect Challenge. The Challenge received more than 500 applications from around the world, all proposing innovative solutions to address the social, economic, and access barriers women and girls face when accessing technology. Nine winners working across 13 countries were selected.



To promote effective development decision making and ensure greater accountability and transparency about where USAID is working, the GeoCenter helped establish new Agency policies related to the collection of activity location data and standards for submission of all geographic data collected through USAID-funded programs. (See ADS 201/579 Mandatory Reference - Activity Location Data and ADS 579 Additional Help - Geographic Data Collection and Submission Standards).

CDD's investment in the Digital Impact Alliance (DIAL) is working to enable the development sector's access to mobile network operator (MNO) data. This requires stakeholders to understand different partnership models and operational and governance processes. This exciting program offers an opportunity for the private sector to partner with the public sector to improve development outcomes with the valuable data they already possess. In Malawi, the Ministry of Health has started to combine MNO data with health services data to help them place over 900 health facilities throughout the county.

IN 2018, USAID'S DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IMPACTED OVER 22 COUNTRIES IN AFRICA, ASIA, LATIN AMERICA, AND THE CARIBBEAN, SOUTH AMERICA, EASTERN EUROPE, AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

DIGITAL INCLUSION

In a digital world, the ability of communities and countries to effectively access and use affordable internet services and communications tools is a critical component to achieving self-reliance. USAID's Digital Inclusion team advances self-reliance by working with a broad range of public and private sector partners to expand access, adoption, and use of internet and mobile services in marginalized communities.

CATALYZING INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIP

The "Better Connectivity, Better Programs: How to Implement a Broadband Demand Aggregation Program" is a guide for USAID Missions and implementing partners to engage directly with network providers on internet and mobile service quality. In 2018, the Digital Inclusion team's partner, NetHope, put these practices into action in Uganda—and in less than one year, NGOs and implementing partners have seen internet service quality at over 60 field locations improve, prices cut by over 40 percent, and use of connectivity at those sites increase dramatically, by over 100 percent at many locations.

The team commissioned comprehensive network maps and a review of connectivity quality in Uganda refugee settlements that are being used by NGOs and private sector partners to develop digital solutions for refugees, as part of the USAID/MasterCard Smart Communities Coalition.

Photo: Tom Perry / World Bank

USAID private sector partner CSquared has built over 125 kilometers of metropolitan fiber network in Monrovia, Liberia, connecting government offices, health clinics, and businesses to high-speed internet service for the first time. In rural Liberia, the mobile network operator Orange is also building new mobile network towers in collaboration with USAID, which is assisting in site selection and customer demand on the ground. The Digital Inclusion practice also helps the Government of Liberia take advantage of this new connectivity by offering cybersecurity training and ICT policy assistance.

The Digital Inclusion practice works with GSMA, the global trade association of mobile network operators, to improve the quality of mobile service coverage maps and spur investment in more-secure, innovative, low-cost network technology that will expand the reach of mobile service in USAID countries.

EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS

The WomenConnect Challenge funds nine innovative projects that aim to close the gender digital divide. Unique among gender divide programs, the WomenConnect Challenge focuses on social norms that prevent many women and girls from utilizing technology. The challenge received more than 500 applications from over 80 countries. The winning solutions tackle the technical, social, and economic barriers women face when accessing digital tools in 13 countries around the world.

USAID Missions, implementing partners, governments, and other donors are increasingly using the Digital Inclusion team's Gender and ICT Survey Toolkit to study the gender digital divide. The Government of Zambia, the USAID Mission in Uganda, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation have used the Toolkit to improve field surveys, focus research, and collect gender disaggregated data in a way that will hone in on the root causes of the divide.

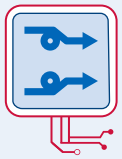
ADVANCING AN OPEN AND SECURE INTERNET

Alongside counterparts at the U.S. State Department, the USAID Digital Inclusion practice leads the implementation of the U.S. Government's new Digital Connectivity and Cybersecurity Partnership (DCCP). This five-year, global interagency initiative will increase access to an open, interoperable, reliable, and secure internet, promote pro-competitive and multi-stakeholder approaches to internet governance, and build cyber capacity in developing countries worldwide.

The Digital Inclusion practice regularly engages directly with policymakers, private sector partners, and civil society to advance America's national security interest in preserving a free, open, interoperable, and secure internet worldwide. Projects have included helping Afghanistan establish an independent telecommunications regulator, building country advocacy coalitions with the Web Foundation's Alliance for Affordable Internet, and formation of national broadband plans and country ICT strategies.

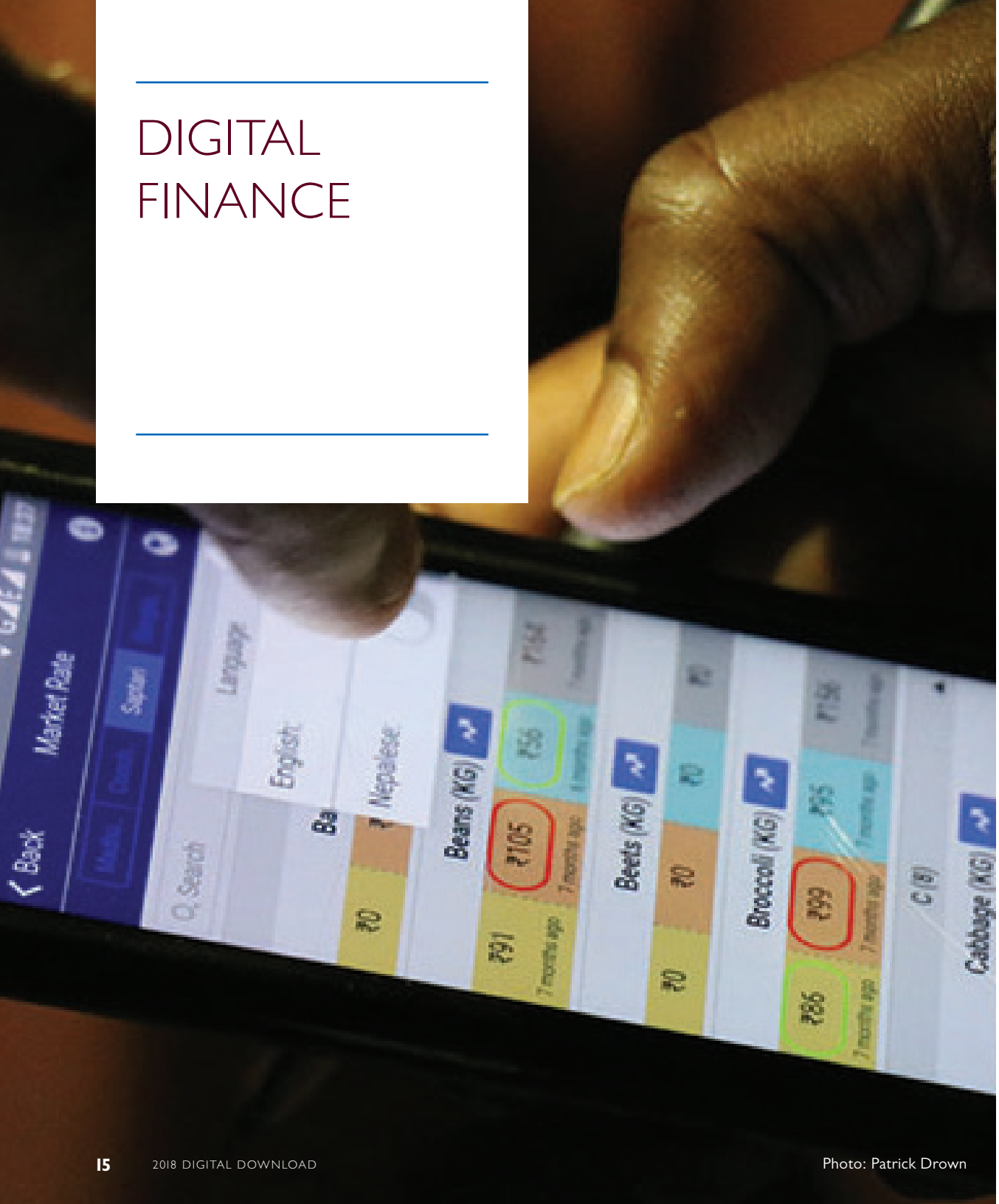
THE WomenConnect CHALLENGE focuses on social norms that prevent many women and girls from utilizing technology.

The challenge received more than **500 APPLICATIONS from 80 COUNTRIES**.



USAID private sector partner CSquared has built over **125 KILOMETERS OF METROPOLITAN FIBER NETWORK** in Monrovia, Liberia, connecting government offices, health clinics, and businesses to high-speed internet service for the first time.

DIGITAL FINANCE



USAID's Digital Finance practice works to expand the use of digital financial services (DFS) and the adoption of policies that support the development of inclusive, sustainable DFS ecosystems in countries as part of their journey of self-reliance.

SUPPORTING GLOBAL STABILITY

Working with Mexico's National Banking and Securities Commission as part of the RegTech for Regulators Accelerator (R2A), USAID's Digital Finance practice assisted in the creation of a secure, centralized system that analyzes financial information from across the country to spot potential risks. Through this system's innovative use of artificial intelligence, the Central Bank of Mexico can now more easily detect and stop potential money laundering schemes, creating a safer, more secure financial system.

CATALYZING INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIP

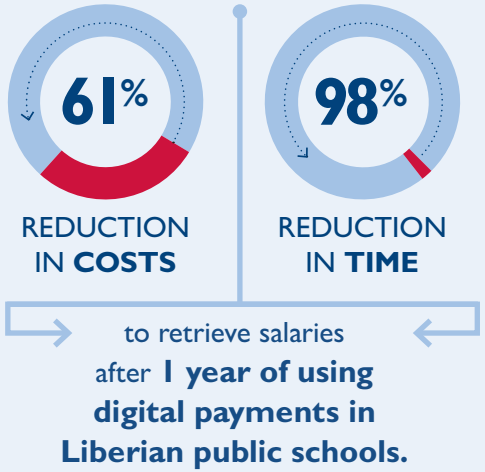
As a co-founder and member of the Better Than Cash Alliance (BTCA), USAID's Digital Finance practice works to advance financial inclusion and promote transparency through the use of digital payments. Over the past year BTCA expanded its membership to 65 organizations, including the Government of Indonesia, Gap Inc., and the World Cocoa Foundation.

Photo: Patrick Drown

In Liberia, USAID's Digital Finance practice worked with FHI 360's mSTAR Project and the Liberian Government to strengthen mobile money agent networks and digitize payments to public school teachers and health workers. After just one year, 20 percent of Liberian public school teachers were enrolled to receive their salaries through digital payments. This change led to a 61 percent reduction in cost associated with collecting salary, a 98 percent reduction in time needed to retrieve their salaries, and an additional 10.5 hours of additional time spent on duty.

Working with partners like United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the Digital Finance practice helped Sierra Leone's Treasury Department launch the Sierra Leone FinTech Challenge. This challenge supports four innovative projects as they expand digital financial services to communities and financial security and management tools to financial institutions.

USAID's Digital Finance practice published its Primer on Blockchain, which explores one of the most discussed and promising tools in digital finance. Through an in-depth analysis of the technology and an examination of early use cases, this guide provides key assessment questions for development professionals and outlines the potential risks and benefits in international development.



DEVELOPMENT INFORMATICS (DEVINFO)

Photo: LAWIN Forest and Biodiversity Protection System

USAID's Development Informatics (DevInfo) practice seeks to improve the Agency's investments in and use of information and communication technologies (ICT) to help USAID staff and partners collect, analyze, and use data for programmatic decision-making.

CATALYZING INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

When, where, and how can real-time data be used for adaptive management in development programs? Looking at the growing trend of mobile data collection tools and their use in the decision-making process, the DevInfo practice published a series of resources, including a multi-country case study report, which serve as a guide for policy makers and development practitioners on the best practices for assessing and using these technologies.

After co-drafting the Principles for Digital Development, the DevInfo practice supported their implementation and adoption by development agencies, implementing partners, and organizations around the world. In 2018, they celebrated the announcement of the 100th endorsement by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID). By the end of 2018, 150 organizations had endorsed the Principles.

Every day, billions of data points are created and collected, almost all of them digital. But in development settings in particular, how are data being used and protected? In a new guide for USAID staff outlining considerations for using data responsibly, the DevInfo practice shared findings from their extensive research into the best practices development practitioners should use when collecting, recording, analyzing, sharing, and storing data.

Focusing specifically on balancing tensions between data privacy and security, transparency and openness, and increased data use, it is one of the first development-specific documents created on the topic by USAID.

PROMOTING GLOBAL HEALTH

Launched in 2017, the West Africa Health Informatics Team (WAHIT) is supported by the DevInfo practice and the West African Health Organization (WAHO) to improve digital health information systems across 15 West African countries. The team is an important model for providing locally-staffed informatics and software expertise at a regional level. As part of their work, the team has provided direct technical assistance to seven ministries of health, trained nearly 100 individuals in the region to support the development of local tech experts, and published three case studies to share best practices and findings.

Created during the 2014–2015 West Africa Ebola outbreak, mHero is a mobile communications platform, supported in part by the DevInfo practice, that connects ministries of health with local health workers to communicate health information faster. Since 2016, 17 departments at the Liberia Ministry of Health have used it for 77 campaigns, including disease surveillance, commodity tracking, and training.

CELEBRATED THE
100TH ENDORSEMENT
by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) of the
PRINCIPLES FOR DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT.

Since 2016,
17 DEPARTMENTS
at the Liberia Ministry of Health have used mHero in
77 CAMPAIGNS
to communicate health information **FASTER**.

GeoCenter

Photo: Miles Sedgwick, Rana Labs

USAID's GeoCenter is a team of geographers and data analysts who provide direct support to USAID field missions and Washington-based bureaus in strategic planning, program design, monitoring, and evaluation. The team applies geospatial data and analytics to inform decisions that help the Agency more effectively prioritize its resources and determine where it should be targeting its development programs.

CATALYZING INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Launched in 2015, the GeoCenter's YouthMappers program harnesses the power of web-based, open mapping technology to address humanitarian and development challenges. Partnering with the university community, it empowers students to create and share new geospatial data in unmapped areas where USAID works. In 2018, the program reached 5,000 university students from 135 universities across 38 countries. For example, in an effort to address food insecurity in West Africa, YouthMappers collected new data to improve the soybean value chain in Ghana.

SUPPORTING GLOBAL STABILITY

In Central America, the GeoCenter provided technical assistance to USAID's Honduras Mission and its Geographic Information Systems Specialist, supporting their work to increase citizen security for vulnerable populations who tend to migrate illegally due to poverty and lack of a safe environment. The GIS Specialist is mapping homicide rates and other indicators to help the Mission better target interventions in the places where help is most needed in local communities.

In East Africa, the GeoCenter worked with the USAID Malawi Mission and Food for Peace program to analyze household shocks and contributing factors to livelihood vulnerability throughout the country. The analysis is helping the Mission develop its five year strategic plan and better target resources to improve the country's resilience.

In Southeast Asia, the GeoCenter supported the USAID East Timor Mission with its five-year strategic plan. It analyzed malnutrition and stunting rates by geography, comparing them to places in which the Mission was already working. The results informed the Mission on where to target its future food security programs.

TRANSFORMING DEVELOPMENT

In an effort to cultivate a data-driven Agency, the GeoCenter trained over 300 USAID staff in FY18 on how to incorporate geospatial information, data visualization, and analysis into decision-making for development.

Working across the Agency and with Missions around the world, the GeoCenter continued to deliver technical services for the Agency's complex development challenges. With support from the GeoCenter, many Missions were able to either expand their mapping or map their portfolio of work for the first time, including the Southern Africa Regional, Ukraine, Timor Leste, Guinea, Burundi, and Madagascar Missions. It also supported mapping and geographic analysis efforts that led to increased coordination with programs and partners, support for USAID Transforms goals, and an increase in self-reliance in Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Brazil, and more.

In 2018, the **GeoCenter's YouthMappers** program reached

5,000 STUDENTS

from **135 UNIVERSITIES** across **38 COUNTRIES.** The program empowers students to create and share new geospatial data in unmapped areas where USAID works.

300 USAID STAFF

In an effort to create a data-driven agency, the GeoCenter trained over 300 USAID staff in FY18 **ON HOW TO INCORPORATE GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION, DATA VISUALIZATION, AND ANALYSIS** into decision-making for development.

DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT FOR FEED THE FUTURE (D2FTF)

Photo: Azim Knan Ronnie

The Feed the Future initiative was focused on integrating digital technologies into Feed the Future activities to accelerate reductions in global hunger, malnutrition, and poverty.

Over the last three years, the Digital Development for Feed the Future (D2FTF) team has worked in Feed the Future priority countries around the world to harness the power of digital tools to increase food security, meet nutritional goals, and end hunger. Now, at the end of the project, we recognize their work in precision agriculture, mobile-enabled extension information delivery, financial inclusion, and data-driven agriculture. By launching initiatives such as the Data-Driven Farming Prize, researching sector-changing projects, outlining best practices, and contributing to the U.S. Government's Global Food Security Strategy, the D2FTF initiative has made a lasting contribution to digital agriculture and all of digital development.

CATALYZING INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIP

The D2FTF team created a series of eight case studies featuring some of the leading AgTech innovations. Each looking at a unique project or organization, and with a specific focus on the Principles for Digital Development, the case studies provide key insights into how digital tools are transforming agriculture, empowering smallholder farmers, and opening the door to future innovation.

Recognizing that smallholder farmers face inherent economic risks, the D2FTF team created the resource "Using Digital Tools to Expand Access to Agricultural Insurance." This guide builds off of the previously developed resource "Guide to the Use of Digital Financial Services in Agriculture," and provides development practitioners with a framework for evaluating how digital tools can be used to minimize risk for farmers through insurance and increase household resilience.

Exploring the increasingly important role data plays in the decision making process for smallholder farmers, the D2FTF team created "Digital Farmer Profiles: Reimagining Smallholder Agriculture." This groundbreaking research compiles evidence from a diverse range of programs to show how digital tools and data are transforming how smallholder farmers and organizations collect, analyze, and use data.

To help improve food security and stability, the D2FTF team contributed to the country strategies for all 12 of the target countries outlined in the U.S. Government's Global Food Security Strategy. Additionally, they completed in-depth assessments in nine countries, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Nepal, Nigeria, Senegal, and Uganda, to determine how best to further integrate digital tools and increase the impact of Feed the Future programs. Assessments for the Sahel Region and Burkina Faso are ongoing.

Fall Armyworm is a hard-to-detect pest that can cause extensive crop damage to large areas in a short amount of time. To prevent its spread in Africa, the D2FTF team supported Feed the Future in launching the Fall Armyworm Tech Prize with Land O'Lakes International Development, Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, and other leading partners. After receiving over 225 applications, 20 finalists were selected to participate in a co-creation and testing process, ultimately leading to six winners being awarded cash prizes for their results and potential to implement their solutions in countries across Africa.

The D2FTF team trained USAID staff and implementing partners in digital agriculture best practices and created three internal toolkits on assessments, programming, and convenings to ensure the programs created and lessons learned by the team continue forward. This work included developing and delivering a first-ever Digital Agriculture training, modeled after the Digital Development training, to Feed the Future country staff and implementing partners.

6 WINNERS

CHOSEN FROM 20 FINALISTS

AWARDED CASH PRIZES

for their results and potential to implement preventative solutions in Africa to combat Fall Armyworm.

Completed in-depth assessments

IN 9 COUNTRIES

to determine how best to INTEGRATE DIGITAL TOOLS and increase the impact of programs.

OUR PARTNERS

Innovative. Transformational. Forward-thinking. These are just a few of the words that can be used to describe the partnerships, alliances, and community of experts that USAID's Center for Digital Development has cultivated to apply digital solutions to some of the most urgent global development challenges. These partners bring together leaders from across all sectors, creating a collaborative approach to development that increases efficiency, accelerates results, and maximizes investments.

SOME OF OUR PARTNERS INCLUDE:

Better Than Cash Alliance (BTCA)
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Citi Foundation
- MasterCard
- Omidyar Network
- Sida
- United Nations Capital Development Fund
- Visa

Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP)
- 33 members including bilateral and multilateral donors

CSquared
- Cisco
- Inveneo
- MasterCard
- Orange

Digital Frontiers
- DAI

Digital Impact Alliance (DIAL)
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Sida
- United Nations Foundation

Global Broadband and Innovations Program (GBI)
- NetHope

Mobile Solutions Technical Assistance and Research Project (mSTAR)
- FHI 360

RegTech for Regulators Accelerator (R2A)
- The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Omidyar Network
- Bankable Frontiers Associates (BFA)
- Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors

Strategic Impact Advisors (SIA)

West Africa Health Informatics Team (WAHIT)

YouthMappers
- Arizona State University
- Texas Tech University
- George Washington University
- West Virginia University

Photo: USAID, Angaza, USAID'S Development Credit Authority, Sayma Islam, Robert Kent Jr. ,David Rochkind, Alex Mania, Montakan Tanchaoisawat, Chakula Kwa Jamii (CKJ), AFP/Bay Ismoyo, B+Wiser, CPM Uganda


FMB
DENR
BOB
LAWIN STUDY TOUR

LEARN MORE

Photo: USAID

Interested in learning about the latest digital development activities at USAID? Want to learn more about emerging technologies in development? Stay in touch with USAID's Center for Digital Development to learn more about our latest projects, resources, and updates.

LEARN MORE
WWW.USAID.GOV/DIGITAL-DEVELOPMENT

FOLLOW US
@USAID_DIGITAL

USE OUR RESOURCES
WWW.DIGITALDEVELOPMENT.ORG

CONTACT US
DIGITALDEVELOPMENT@USAID.GOV

SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER
HTTP://EEPURL.COM/BU8JNP

Cover Photo: Daljit Singh


USAID
UNITED STATES AGENCY INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE